

HONORING MR. MARTIN J.
MARASCO

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Martin J. Marasco. As this year's recipient of the Penn's Woods Council Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award, Marty has shown exemplary performance as a businessman, a community leader, a philanthropist, and a role model.

Through his 39 years affiliation with the Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation, Marty has worked at developing and delivering purposeful and creative programs and services involving all aspects of the economic development process to his community. He is responsible for much of the industrial and commercial economic expansion that has been crucial to Blair County's growth and development.

Marty's experiences in all facets of economic development have enabled him to be successful in his dealings with local, state, and federal agencies as well as commercial and industrial clients. His ability to capitalize on both public and private financing vehicles has led to the creation and preservation of 17,580 jobs, and serves to demonstrate how good business sense and strong work ethic can benefit the individual as well as the community.

The diverse background and numerous accomplishments Marty has spent a lifetime working toward have allowed him to be extremely active in his community. He is Past Chair and Member of the Pastoral Council at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, as well as a Member and Vice Chairman of the Executive Roundtable of Blair County. Always supportive of community sports activities, Marty coached instructional level through elementary basketball for 25 years. He also served, for 8 years, as the treasurer and coach for the Altoona Little League baseball program.

As a family man, Marty has been a husband to his wife Carol for nearly 42 years; he is a father to eight children, and a grandfather to thirteen grandchildren. Marty's efforts and accomplishments serve to exemplify great service to self, family, and community. For these reasons I commend those who have seen fit to honor Marty with this year's Distinguished Citizen Award, and I too recognize and congratulate Marty Marasco for all he has done.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT D. WEXLER,
PH.D

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my friend, Robert D. Wexler, on the occasion of his thirty years of service to the American Jewish University (AJU), and particularly his service as president for the past seventeen years.

During the first decade of his presidency at AJU, Dr. Wexler launched three major initia-

tives which promote education, understanding and peace: the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies, the Center for Israel Studies, and the Ziering Institute. Under his leadership, AJU started its Community Partners Initiative in which the university reaches out to the many ethnic and religious communities of Los Angeles. He has helped AJU's Whizin Center for Continuing Education become the largest Jewish adult education program in the United States with more than 15,000 participants each year.

In addition to his work at the American Jewish University, Dr. Wexler has served in many community leadership roles. He chaired the Los Angeles Federation's Commission on Israelis and the Committee on Jewish Education. He has also published several articles, including contributions to the Encyclopedia Judaica, the Etz Hayim commentary on the Torah, and a volume entitled Israel, the Diaspora and Jewish Identity.

Born in Los Angeles, Dr. Wexler received his B.A. in Sociology from UCLA, and was ordained as a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he also earned a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Literature. While enrolled in rabbinical school, Dr. Wexler also earned his M.B.A. from Baruch College in New York City. Following his ordination, he spent a year on the faculty of Princeton University, teaching in the Department of Middle East Studies. Dr. Wexler later earned both a Master of Arts degree and a Ph.D. from UCLA in the Department of Near Eastern Languages.

Dr. Wexler is included every year in Newsweek's list of America's 50 most influential rabbis, ranking number three in 2008. He has also been included on the Forward's list of the 50 most significant American Jewish leaders.

Dr. Wexler is married to Dr. Hana Wexler, the Director of the Wadsworth Anaerobe Laboratory at the Veteran's Administration in West Los Angeles. They have four children: Daniella, Elisheva, Zev and Nili.

Madam Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Robert D. Wexler for his impressive career and dedication to the community and the American Jewish University, and to congratulate him on the occasion of his thirty years of service.

JESSICA KALIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Kalin who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Kalin is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Kalin is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Jessica Kalin for winning the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT HAWKINS ON
BEING NAMED DEAN OF THE
CENTRAL TEXAS LABOR COUNCIL
AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working families from my hometown Waco, Texas, Robert Hawkins. This week, we celebrate Robert's 50th year of service, and congratulate him on being named Dean of the Central Texas Labor Council.

Prior to his appointment to the Council, he served on the State Job Training Coordinating Council and has held a number of appointments from six Texas Governors. After 30 years of service, Mr. Hawkins retired as the Director of Special Programs at Texas State Technical College in Waco. During his 30 years at the college, he was instrumental in pioneering work in the area of career education and economic development training. He is Chair Emeritus of the Central Texas Economic Development Council and is Chairman Emeritus of the Heart of Texas Economic Development District Board of Directors. He serves his community as a member of the Bellmead City Council and has served four terms as Mayor.

Mr. Hawkins is also a proud member of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 529, Texas Academy of Science, and the Texas Technical Society. He has served as a member of an Advisory Committee for the Texas Department of Health, on a Senate Advisory Committee for Vocational-Technical Education, as Vice-Chair of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, and on the President's Council of Youth Opportunity.

Robert is also a true friend to our troops, veterans, and their families. He served in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, the Texas State Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserves. He retired with 25 years of combined military service with the rank of Colonel. Robert was attached to the 5th Armored Division, D Battery at Camp Chafee, Arkansas, on September 24, 1957, and participated in the pre-dawn exercises to secure Central High School in Little Rock in preparation for integration of the school. He also taught military courses at the National Guard Professional Education Center and for the Department of Defense.

Robert has received numerous awards for military and public service and humanitarian activities. Among these are the Distinguished Service Award from the Secretary of the Army, the Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal and the Clara Barton Medal from the American Red Cross.

I want to personally thank Robert for his lifetime of service to our community. He is an example of someone who has truly made a positive difference in the lives of others.